

MARVEL
COMICS



PUNISHER THE NEW **2099**

\$1.50 US
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19
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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

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**YEAH,
RIGHT.**

DIRECT EDITION



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7 59606 01159 9

HIS FAMILY WAS MURDERED BY A PSYCHOPATH IN AN AGE WHERE JUSTICE CAN BE BOUGHT AND NO ONE BELIEVES IN OLD-FASHIONED PUNISHMENT ANYMORE... NO ONE EXCEPT JAKE GALLOWAY... A WEAPONS SPECIALIST IN THE PUBLIC EYE POLICE FORCE BY DAY, AT NIGHT HE IS INCORRUPTIBLE JUSTICE.

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

THE PUNISHER 2099



AAAAGSHHH!
INCENDIGEL!
BURNING MY
FLESH!

THE PAIN! PLEASE...
FINISH ME OFF!

NO WAY... THE WOMEN YOU
BOUGHT AND SOLD SUFFERED
SLOW DEATHS
BECAUSE OF YOU.

I DEAL IN REAL PUNISHMENT... NOT
LIKE THE SO-CALLED PUNISHER...

HE'S AT THE DIAPER END OF
THE DEATH BUSINESS...

THIS IS 2099...
TIME A WOMAN
TOOK OVER!

THE DAWN OF... VENDETTA

PAT MILLS & TONY SKINNER TOM MORGAN
WRITERS PENCILER
KEITH WILLIAMS PHIL FELIX IAN LAUGHLIN
INKER LETTERER COLORIST
MATT MORRA JOEY CAVALIERI TOM DEFALCO
BIG BIGGER BIGGEST



I IDENTIFY YOU AS THE
PUNISHER... THERE IS
A DEATH WARRANT
OUT ON YOU...

...SHOOT
ON
SIGHT!

OF COURSE!
BECAUSE HE'S
A ROBOT...
HE DOESN'T
RECOGNIZE
ME...

THANKS TO MY
SUIT'S ELECTRONIC
SCRAMBLER, MY
FACE AND VOICE
ARE ALTERED.

HE DOESN'T KNOW THE
PUNISHER IS ALSO
JAKE GALLONS-- HIS
POLICE PARTNER IN
THE PUBLIC EYE.

THAT COULD
BE MY ONLY
CHANCE... BLOW
MY COVER...
SWITCH OFF
THE SCRAMBLER!

WAIT ONE
MOMENT, GOLDHEART!
RECOGNIZE ME
NOW?

JAKE...
JAKE
GALLONS?

YOU ARE...
THE PUNISHER?!

YEAH... NOW YOU KNOW WHY
THE PUNISHER'S NEVER
BEEN CAUGHT.

I'M THE COP IN
CHARGE OF THE
INVESTIGATION!

AH... A DIFFICULT
SITUATION... I NOW
KNOW YOU ARE
THE MOST WANTED
MAN IN NEW
YORK...

YEAH...
AND I KNOW
YOU'RE THE
GOLD
GHOUL--

--GUNNING
DOWN STREET
GANGS SO YOU CAN
STEAL GOLD
FROM THEIR
CORPSES.

VANITY'S
A STRANGE
SIN FOR A
ROBOT...

I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND...
YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SENTIENT, JAKE...

...FOR ME IT IS A WAY OF DISTANCING
MYSELF FROM MY MACHINE ORIGINS...

...CUSTOMIZING MY BODY
WITH THE MOST PRECIOUS
METAL KNOWN TO MAN
MAKES ME FEEL...

...HUMAN.

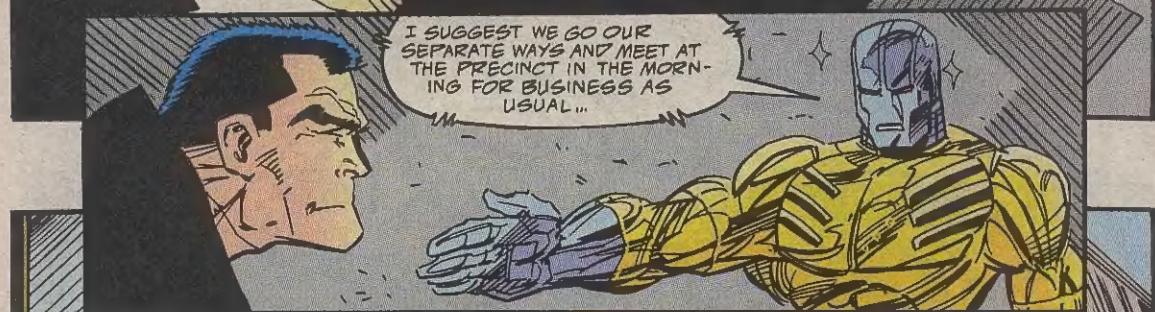


SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW...? WE CAN'T TAKE EACH OTHER IN...

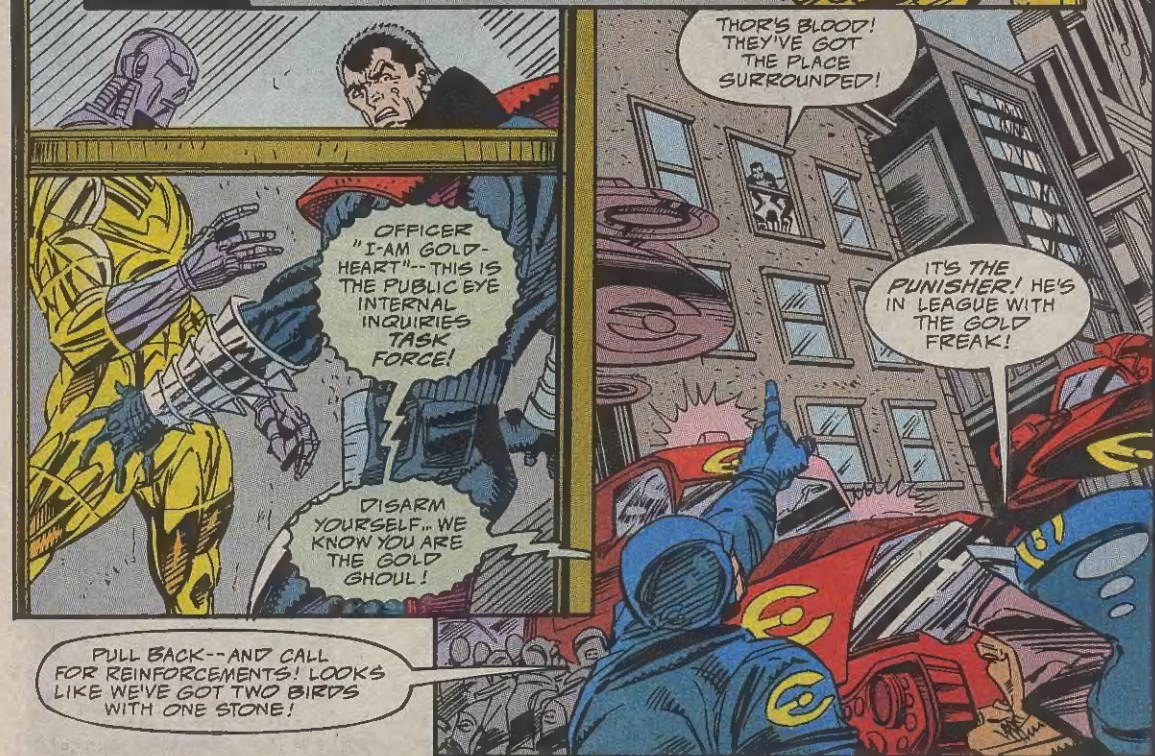
...AND I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR WIPING OUT THE SAME TARGETS THAT I'D HIT...

AND YOUR GOLD THING IS PERSONAL, NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

I AM GLAD YOU UNDERSTAND, JAKE.



I SUGGEST WE GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS AND MEET AT THE PRECINCT IN THE MORNING FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL...



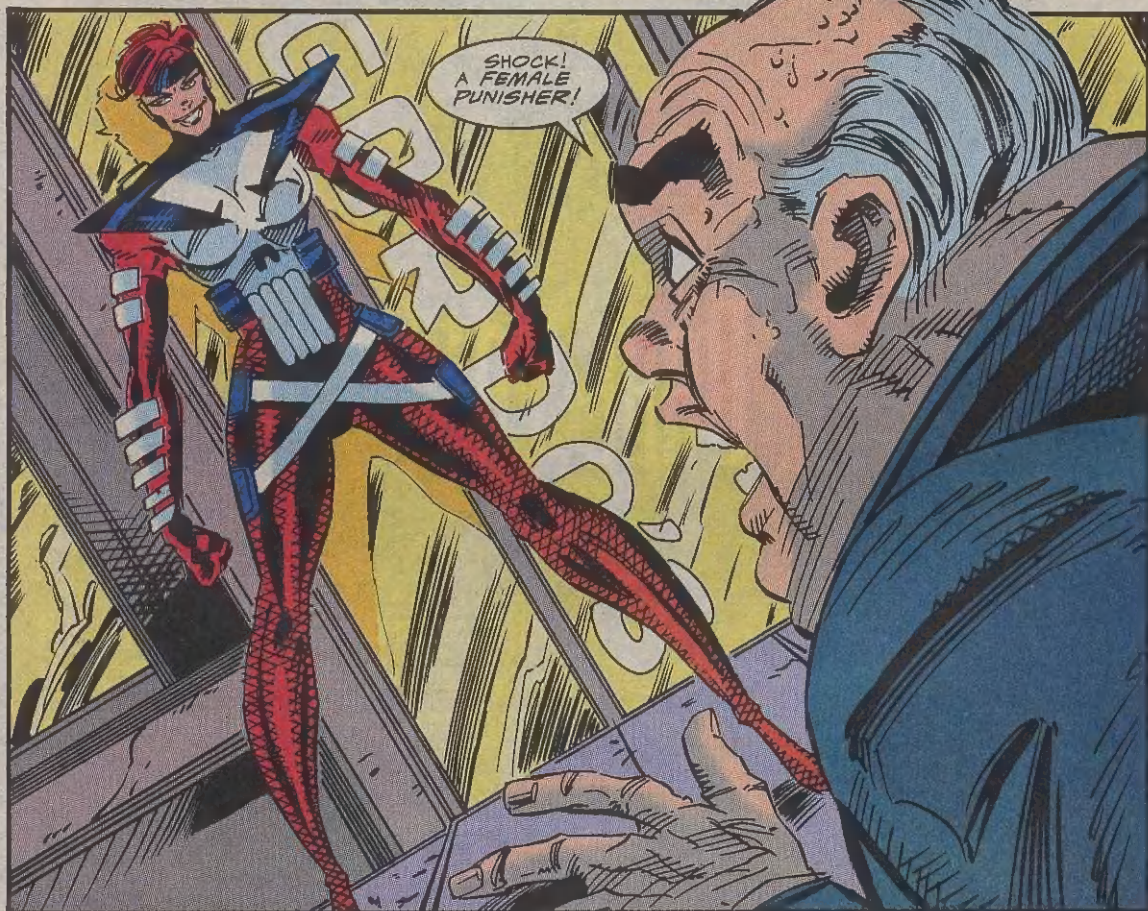
THOR'S BLOOD! THEY'VE GOT THE PLACE SURROUNDED!

OFFICER "I-AM GOLD-HEART"--THIS IS THE PUBLIC EYE INTERNAL INQUIRIES TASK FORCE!

DISARM YOURSELF... WE KNOW YOU ARE THE GOLD GHOU!

PULL BACK--AND CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS! LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!

IT'S THE PUNISHER! HE'S IN LEAGUE WITH THE GOLD FREAK!



OKAY, WE'VE GOT WHO I AM... NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU...

YOU'RE LANGEN RUSSEL, THE EXECUTIVE AT STARK-FUJIKAWA WHO MARKETED "FEMSMILE" -- THE WONDER MICROTRONIC ANTI-DEPRESSANT CHIP FOR WOMEN.

SO WHAT?

SO YOU DIDN'T TEST IT PROPERLY... IT HAD DANGEROUS SIDE EFFECTS... AND EIGHT HUNDRED WOMEN ARE NOW BASKET CASES... BECAUSE OF YOU.

HEY... I WALKED OUT OF THAT COURTROOM VINDICATED.

OF COURSE... YOU'RE A BLACK CARDER... YOU ESCAPED THE LAW...

...BUT YOU CAN'T ESCAPE PUNISHMENT...

...WHEN I PULL THIS TRIGGER, BUT FIRST I WANT TO SEE YOU SWEAT, RUSSEL.

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, MY DEAR. AS YOU'VE POINTED OUT, I'M A BLACK CARDER AND A PUBLIC EYE SUBSCRIBER...

THEREFORE, APART FROM WEARING THE LATEST ARMOR, I'M SECURITY MONITORED TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY.

I ESTIMATE YOU HAVE THIRTY SECONDS TO LEAVE.

WHEEE-
HOO!

WHEEE-
HOO!

WHEEE-
HOO!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

FUN PAGE!

AVENGERS A-SCRAMBLED

It's roll call time at the annual Avengers reunion. Unfortunately, the guest list got a little mixed up. See if you can find the names of 30 Avengers hidden in this puzzle. And hurry! Jarvis has to make up the seating chart! Names are vertical, horizontal, and backwards!

Try to find the following heroes:

BEAST	HUMAN TORCH	SERSI
BLACK KNIGHT	INVISIBLE WOMAN	SHE-HULK
BLACK PANTHER	IRON MAN	SPIDER-MAN
BLACK WIDOW	JARVIS	SPIDER-WOMAN
CAPTAIN AMERICA	LIVING LIGHTNING	STARFOX
CAPTAIN MARVEL	MACHINE MAN	STINGRAY
CRYSTAL	MANTIS	SUB-MARINER
DARKHAWK	MOCKINGBIRD	SWORDSMAN
DOCTOR DRUID	MOONDRAGON	TIGRA
FALCON	MOONKNIGHT	THUNDERSTRIKE
FIREBIRD	MR. FANTASTIC	USAGENT
GIANT MAN	NAMOR	VISION
GILGAMESH	QUASAR	WAR MACHINE
HAWKEYE	QUICKSILVER	WASP
HELLCAT	RAGE	WONDER MAN
HERCULES	SCARLET WITCH	YELLOWJACKET
HULK	SANDMAN	

Answers will appear in next week's Bullpen Bulletins!

BEASTBGHSCARLETTWITCHS
LFGDULIUTAPMSWQTRJMAP
AAIASALMIPMOHOUHAAWI
CLARACGANTOENIUGRCKD
KCNKGKANGACNHDCNEVHEE
KOTHEWMTRIKKUEKDNI IYR
NNMANIEOANINLRSEASNEW
I HAWTDSRYMNIKMIRMTMO
GUNKHOHC DAGGXALSOEMRM
HLP SAWGHORBBHRNVTWKAFA
TKIRONMANVITNAERECNAN
CAPTA INAMERICARILASNS
RQUASARLZLDYSSVKBJETP
YSUBMARINERQIAIEIWLAI
SKNOGARDNOOMTNSISOUSD
TWARMACHINEFNDISILCTE
ADRIBERIFBCNAMORVLRIR
LDOCTORDRUIDMANENECEM
LIVINGLIGHTNINGSIYHFA
BLACKPANTHEROTACLLLEHN
STARFOXARGITNAMS DROWS



THE HYPE BOX

Get set for blazing battle action with the release of **BLAZE #1** this week! The big news, according to writer **Larry Hama** is that in the first issue of this ongoing series, "Blaze gets rid of that stupid mark that everybody hated!" Blaze is on a quest to find his missing family — but before he finds them, he encounters the vicious Ice Box Bob, whom Larry describes as "one of the nastiest characters I've ever created!" The art team on **BLAZE** is **Henry Martinez** and **Rud La Rosa**.

CROSSOVER CLASSICS

We've published some legendary crossovers over the years. Let's see if you can remember some of their titles. We'll give you partial titles of some classic crossovers — you fill in the rest!

- 1) _____ OF THE MUTANTS
- 2) ACTS OF _____
- 3) THE _____ GAUNTLET
- 4) THE SECRET _____
- 5) MIDNIGHT _____
- 6) GALACTIC _____
- 7) FATAL _____
- 8) SUICIDE _____
- 9) BLOOD AND _____
- 10) MAXIMUM _____

ANSWERS: 1) FALL, 2) VENGEANCE, 3) INFINITY, 4) WARS, 5) MASSACRE, 6) STORM, 7) ATTRACTIONS, 8) RUN, 9) THUNDER, 10) CARNAGE

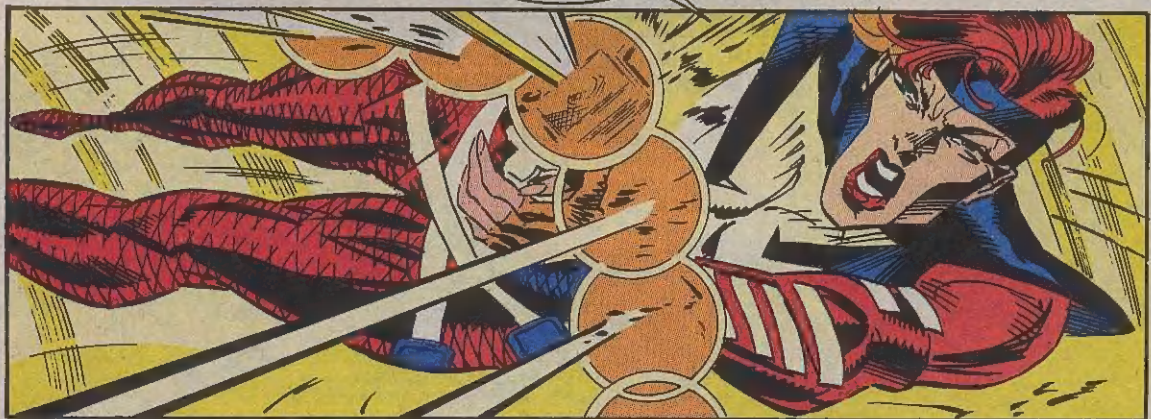
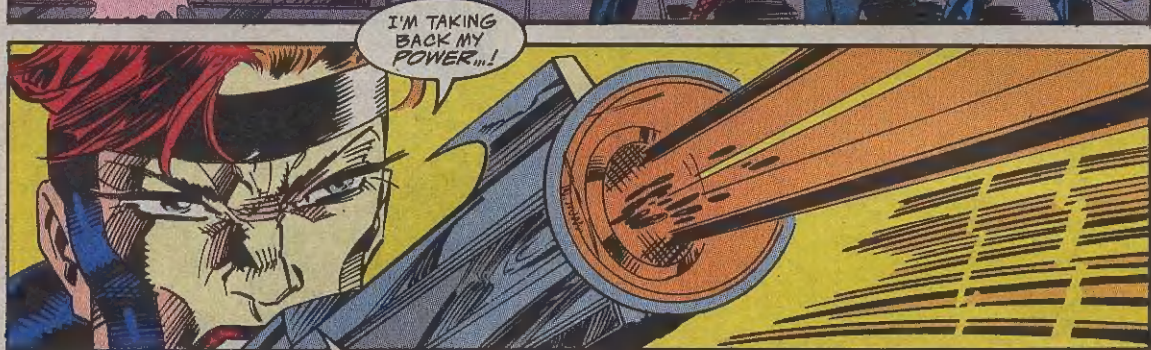
NOW ON SALE

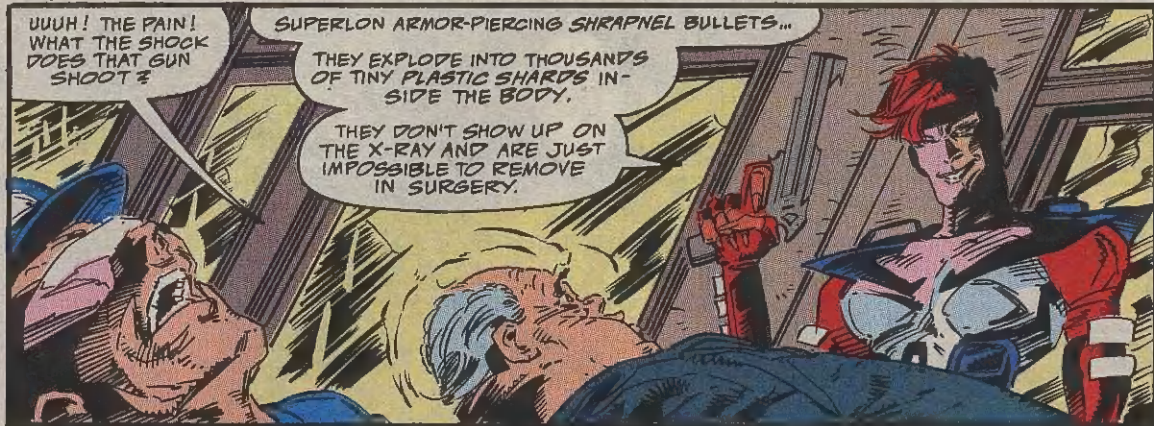
- BARBIE FASHION #44:** Ken's Grandpa Sam needs some hearing aid! By Slate/Cool/Robbins!
- BLACK CAT #2 OF 4: Meet Faze** — nothing can faze him! By Kavanagh/Wildman/Baskerville!
- BLAZE THE VAMPIRE HUNTER #2:** Bad news for Blaze — Drac is back! By Edginton/Wheatley/lyl!
- BLAZE #1: Ice Box Bob** wants to put Blaze in a pine box! By Hama/Martinez/LaRosa!
- DR. STRANGE #38:** The Berserker is in a rage! By Abnett/Rub/Harper!
- FANTASTIC FOUR #380:** They may be the Fantastic One after this issue! By DeFalco/Ryan/Bulanadi!
- GALACTIC GUARDIANS #2:** Wooden fights Silverback in the Sorch Zone! By Gallagher/West/Montano!
- HELLSTORM #17:** She's Daimon's devilish little sister... Satana! By Ellis/Marcol!
- INCREDIBLE HULK TPB: FUTURE**

- IMPERFECT:** Re-presenting the time-travelling classic in one handsome volume! By David/Perez!
- IRON MAN #307:** In the depths of Cyberspace, Iron Man encounters VORTEX! By Kaminski/Morgan/Mitohell!
- IRON MAN 2020 #1:** Think of this comic as Iron Man: The Next Generation! By Simonson/Wiacek!
- MARVEL MASTERPIECES 2 #2:** The *Iron Man* card set is now a comic!
- NEW WARRIORS #50:** Double-sized dynamite! Showdown with the Sphinxes! By Nicieza/Robertson/Mahiedt!
- NIGHTWATCH #5:** Venom stops by to take a bite out of crime! By Kavanagh/Butler/Milgrom!
- OFFICIAL INDEX TO THE X-MEN #5:** Relive the first appearance of Gambi! By Ward!
- PUNISHER 2020 #10:** Meet an all-new Punisher! Enough has been

- said! By Mills & Skinner/Morgan/Williams!
- PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #69:** Frank fights the entire *Marvel Universe*! By Grant/Haynes/McKenna/Gray & Koblish!
- PUNISHER WAR ZONE ANNUAL #2:** The *Thor* slides against the Punisher! By Dixon & Macchio/Eaglesham & Ross/Williamson & Dzon!
- SILVER SURFER #65:** The FF and the Surfer find *Skrull* on Monster Island! By Marz!
- SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #215:** The psychotic Spidey slams the *Scorpion*! By DeFalco/Buscema!
- SPIDER-MAN: THE ARACHNIS PROJECT #1 OF 6:** Action at the Smithsonian museum! By Lackey/Wildman!
- SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #6:** Struck by Thunderstrike! By DeFalco/Lim!

- SPIDER-MAN: WEB OF DOOM #1:** A burglar is found dead! Did Spidey do it? By Harris/Kolins/DeLaRosa!
- WILLIAM SHATNER'S TEK WORLD #24:** Jake's vacation is no day in the sun! By Skolnick/Sullivan!
- THOR #477:** *Thunderstrike* guest stars! Plus, the secret of the Destroyer! By Thomas/Wyman/DeCarlo!
- THUNDERSTRIKE #11:** Sangre + Wildstreak + Bloodaxe = triple trouble! By DeFalco/Frenz/Milgrom!
- VENOM: NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE #1:** Venom meets Vengeance, and things get violent! By Mackie/Lim/Milgrom!
- X-FORCE #37:** The time-travelling Sentinel, Nimrod, sets his sights on Cable! By Nicieza/Daniel/Holdredge!
- X-MEN CLASSIC #98:** Will the X-Men save Juggernaut from Nimrod? By Claremont/Romita Jr./Green!



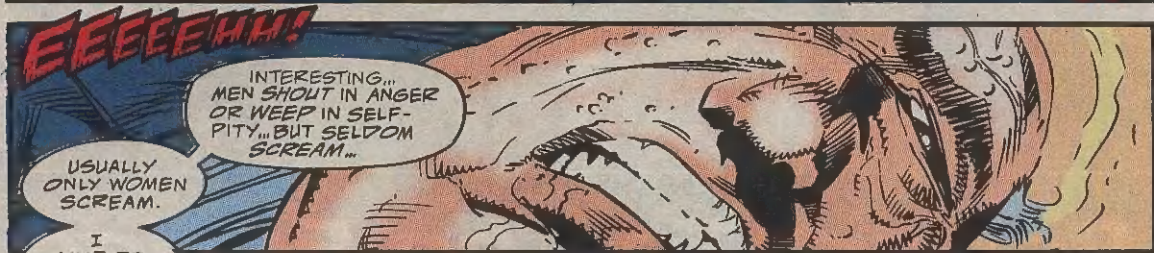


UUUH! THE PAIN!
WHAT THE SHOCK
DOES THAT GUN
SHOOT?

SUPERLON ARMOR-PIERCING SHRAPNEL BULLETS...

THEY EXPLODE INTO THOUSANDS
OF TINY PLASTIC SHARDS IN-
SIDE THE BODY.

THEY DON'T SHOW UP ON
THE X-RAY AND ARE JUST
IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE
IN SURGERY.



EEEEHHH!

INTERESTING...
MEN SHOUT IN ANGER
OR WEEP IN SELF-
PITY... BUT SELDOM
SCREAM...

USUALLY
ONLY WOMEN
SCREAM.

I
LIKE TO
HEAR MEN
SCREAM...



"BE-
CAUSE
THEY
RARELY
DO.

WOMEN ARE
CREATURES OF
EXTREMES...
EXTREME
LOVE AND
TENDER-
NESS...

...BUT ALSO... EXTREME
HATE AND CRUELTY.

GUESS
WHICH END
I'M AT?



I WAS A VENUS-8
GENE DOLL... ONCE
I GAVE MEN
EXTREME
PLEASURE...

...NOW I AM
VENDETTA.

NOW I
GIVE THEM
EXTREME
PUNISH-
MENT!

THE POLICE ARE
NO PROBLEM,
JAKE... I
HAVE SMART
TARGETING
LIKE YOU
WOULDN'T
BELIEVE...

... SCATTER
PATTERN
LASERS WILL
DRILL THEM
ALL THROUGH
THE FORE-
HEAD IN A
SPLIT
SECOND.

NO!
GOLDHEART,
YOU CAN'T
DO THAT...

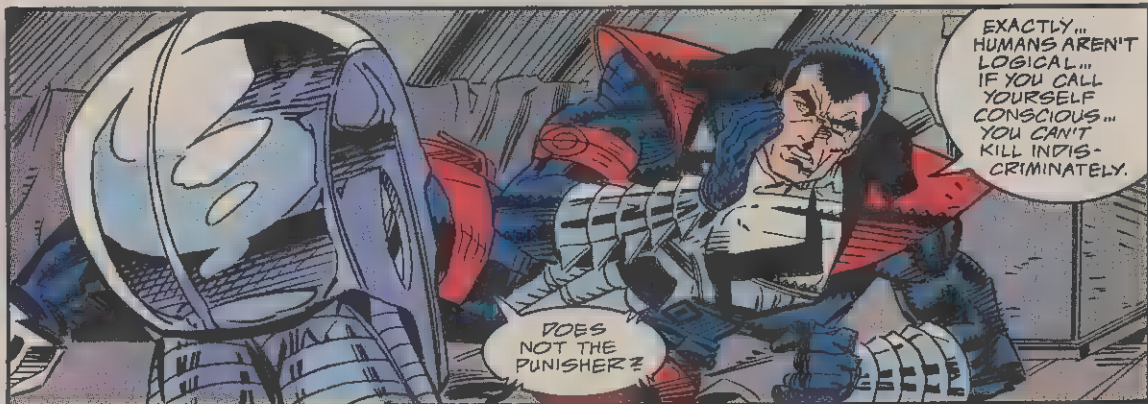
WHY
NOT?

STAND TO ONE SIDE,
JAKE... I ONLY HAVE A FEW
MOMENTS TO DO THIS
PROPERLY.

I
SAID...
NO!

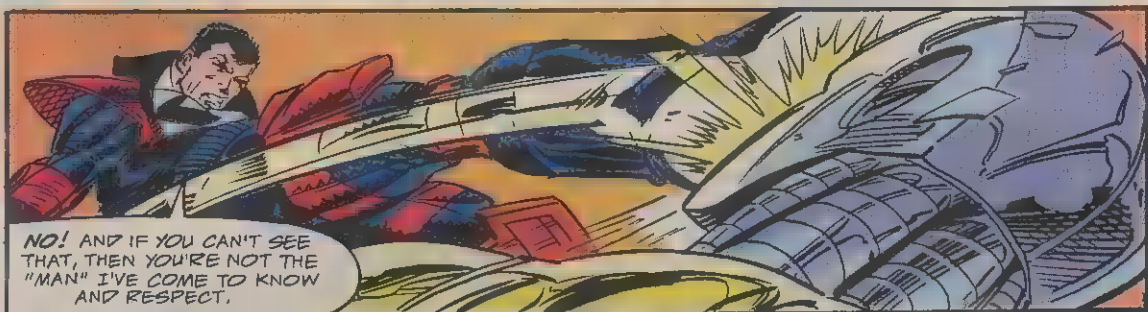
JAKE, I DO NOT
WISH TO HARM
YOU-- BUT I CAN-
NOT BE CAPTURED.
THEY WOULD
TAKE AWAY MY
CONSCIOUSNESS...
SMELT ME
DOWN...

YOUR ACTIONS
ARE NOT
LOGICAL.

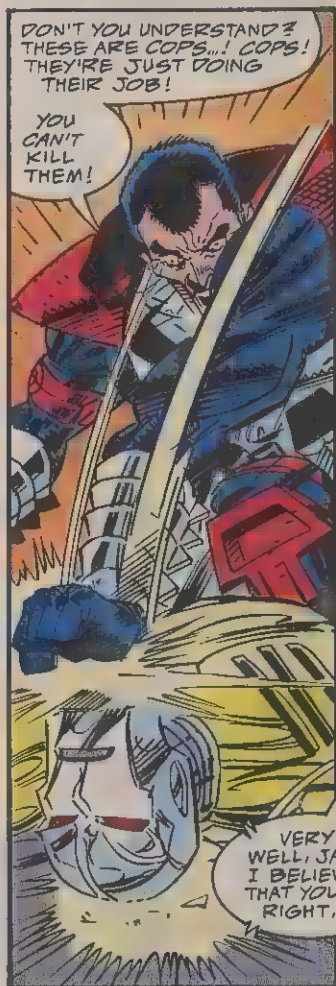


EXACTLY...
HUMANS AREN'T
LOGICAL...
IF YOU CALL
YOURSELF
CONSCIOUS...
YOU CAN'T
KILL INDIS-
CRIMINATELY.

DOES
NOT THE
PUNISHER?



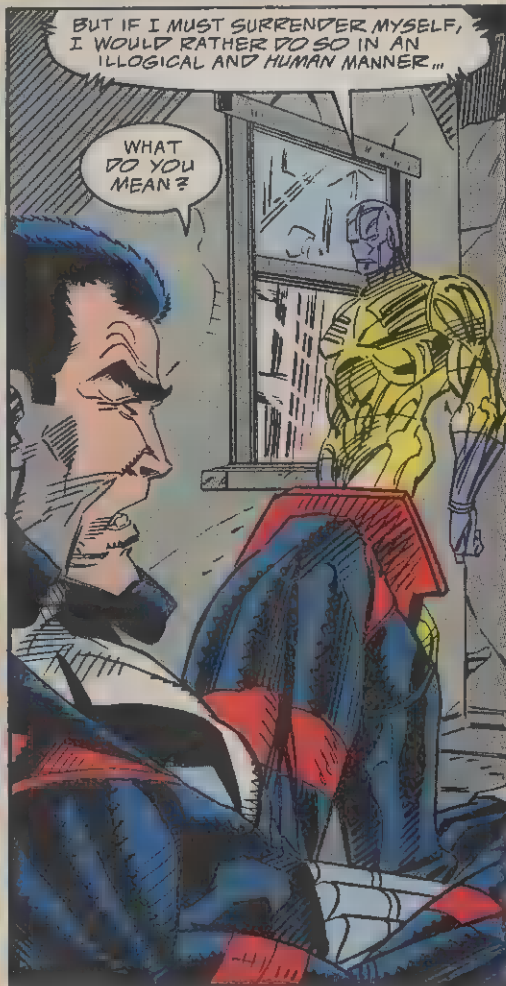
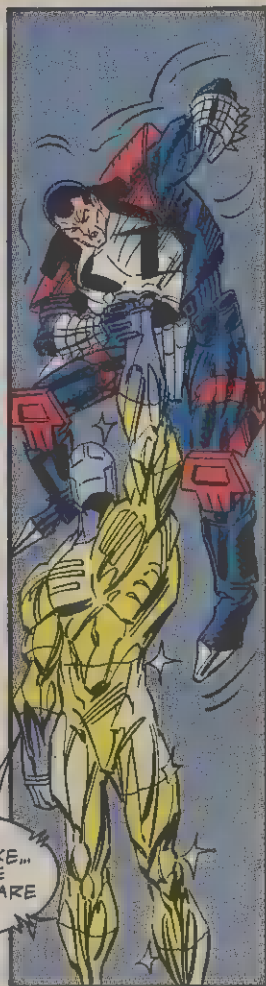
NO! AND IF YOU CAN'T SEE
THAT, THEN YOU'RE NOT THE
"MAN" I'VE COME TO KNOW
AND RESPECT.



DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
THESE ARE COPS...! COPS!
THEY'RE JUST DOING
THEIR JOB!

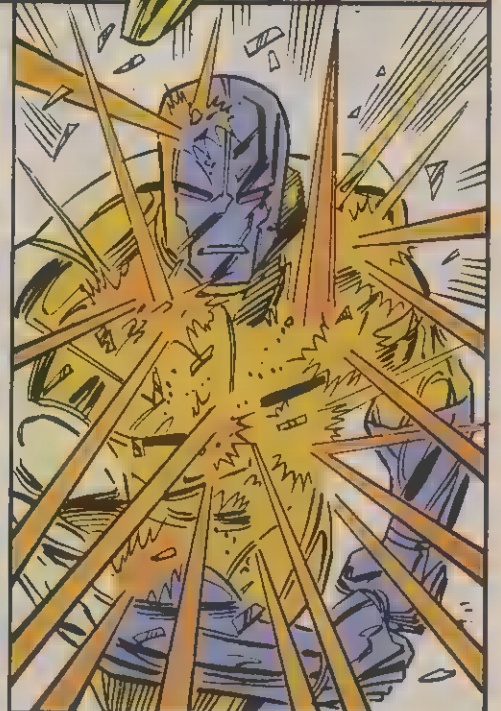
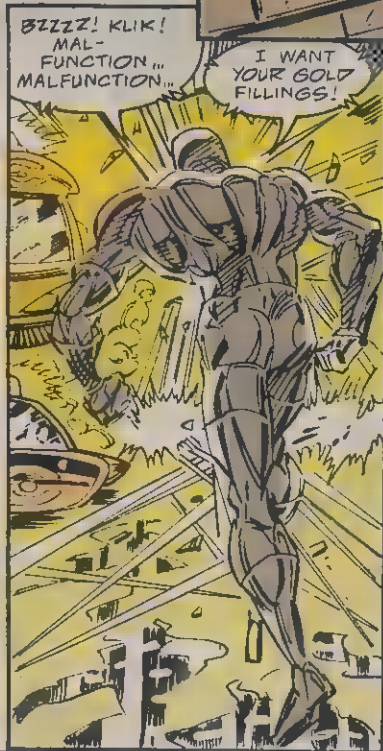
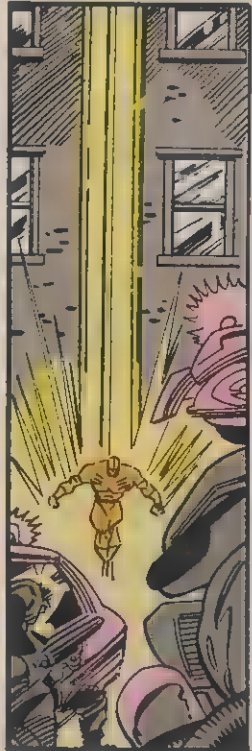
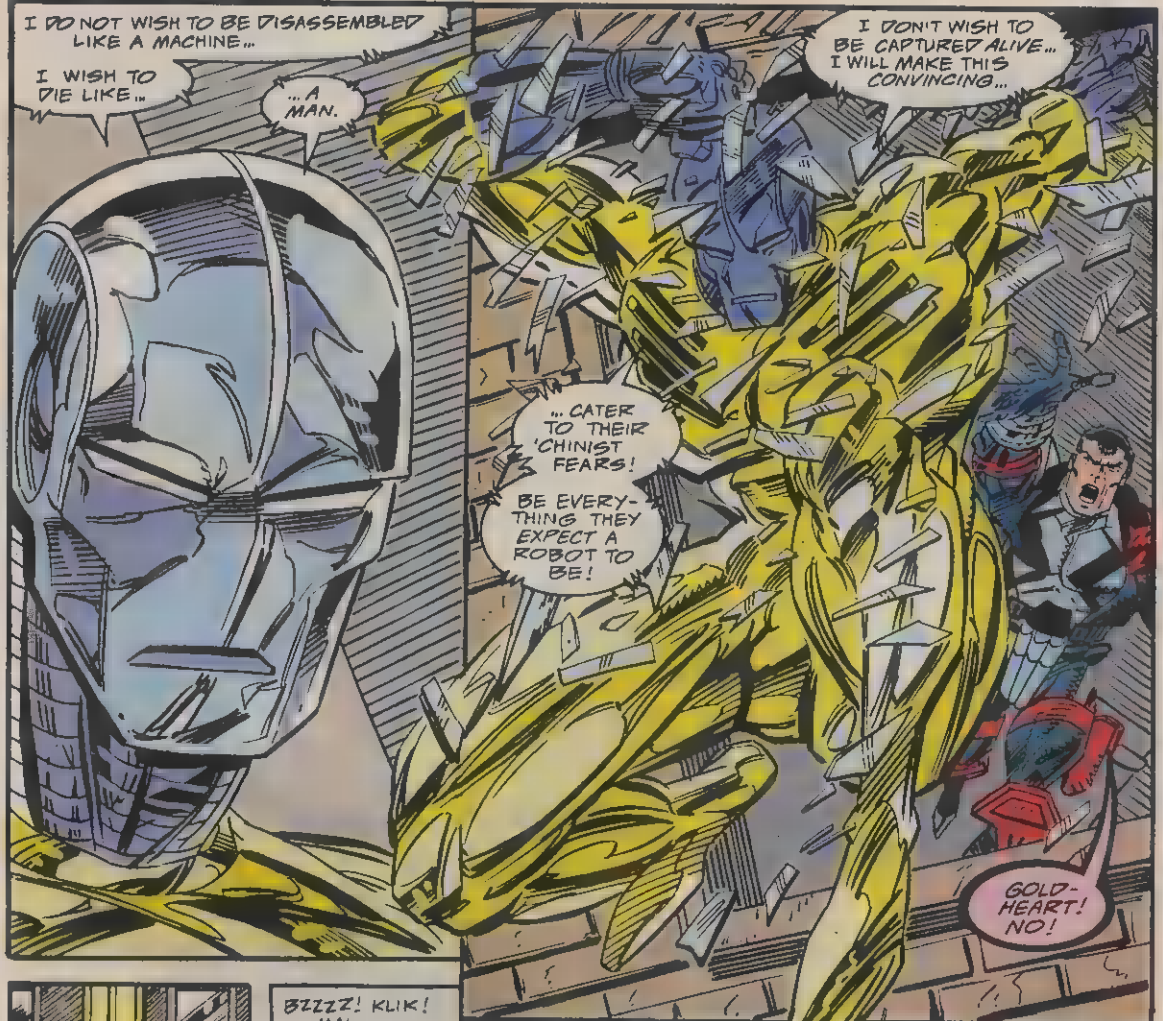
YOU
CAN'T
KILL
THEM!

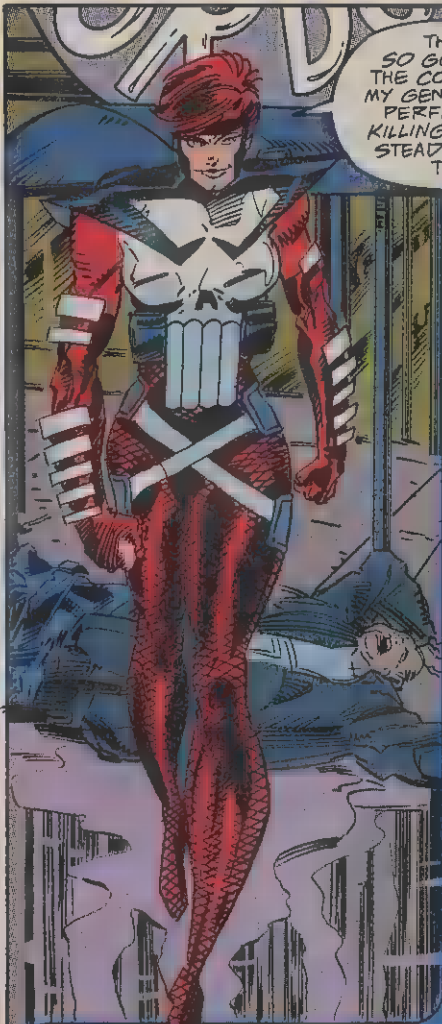
VERY
WELL, JAKE...
I BELIEVE
THAT YOU ARE
RIGHT...



BUT IF I MUST SURRENDER MYSELF,
I WOULD RATHER DO SO IN AN
ILLOGICAL AND HUMAN MANNER...

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?





THAT FELT
SO GOOD... IT WAS
THE CORRECT USE OF
MY GENETICALLY
PERFECT BODY...
KILLING MEN IN-
STEAD OF SERVING
THEM...

...I'VE COME A
LONG WAY FROM
THE MINING CAMPS
OF TITAN...



THIS ONE'S
OWNER SHIPPED
HER BACK TO EARTH
FOR A RE-FIT...
APPARENTLY SHE'S
STILL UNDER
GUARANTEE.

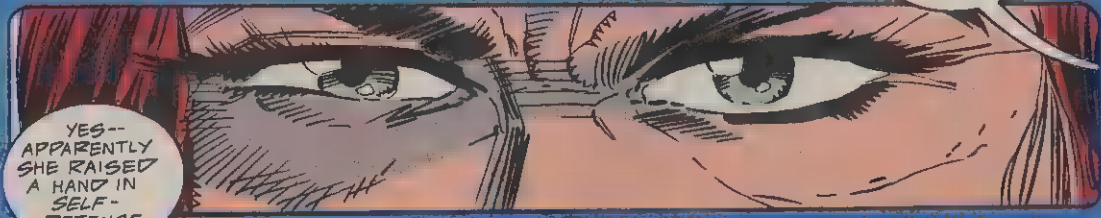
SHE LOOKS
IN A BAD WAY...
ALL THE
MINING DOLLS
USUALLY
DO.



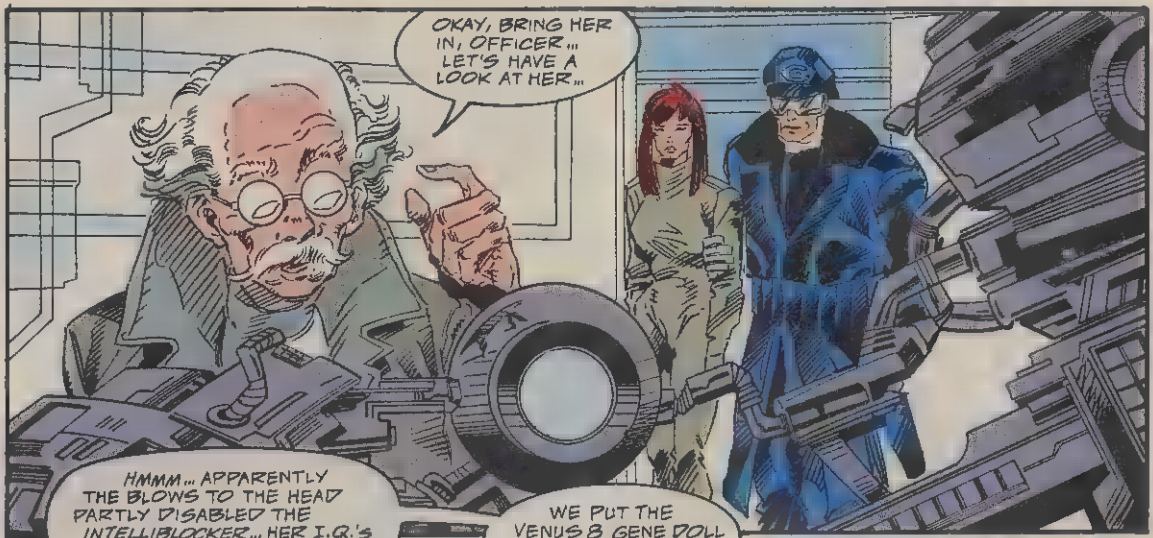
IF ONLY
THE OWNERS
WOULD STICK
TO THE
MANUAL.



NOW
WE'VE GOT
TO RECALI-
BRATE HER
OBEDIENCE
ENGRAM.

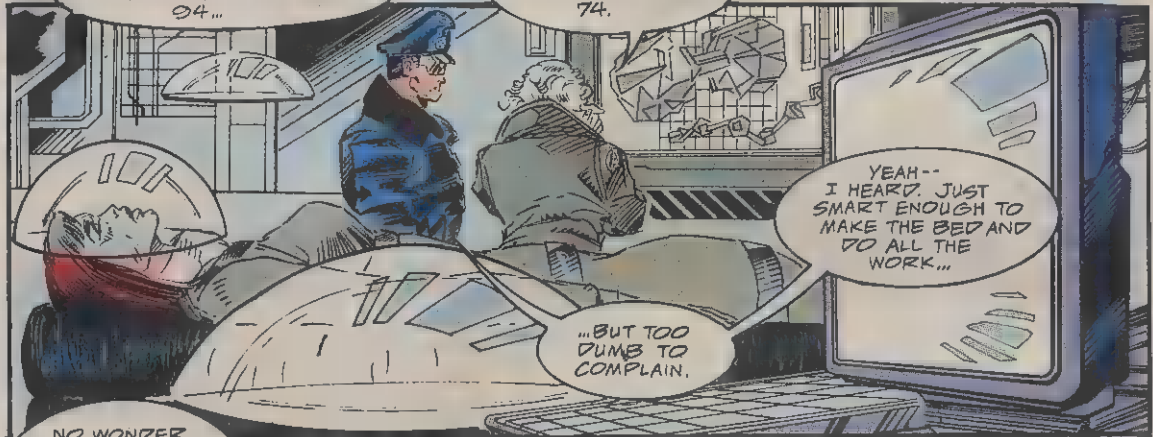


YES--
APPARENTLY
SHE RAISED
A HAND IN
SELF-
DEFENSE.



HMMM... APPARENTLY THE BLOWS TO THE HEAD PARTLY DISABLED THE INTELLIBLOCKER... HER I.Q.'S WANDERED UP TO 94...

WE PUT THE VENUS 8 GENE DOLL OUT AT A STANDARD 74.



...BUT TOO DUMB TO COMPLAIN.

YEAH-- I HEARD. JUST SMART ENOUGH TO MAKE THE BED AND DO ALL THE WORK...

NO WONDER PLEASURE GENS ARE ILLEGAL ON EARTH... THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT WOULD GO CRAZY!

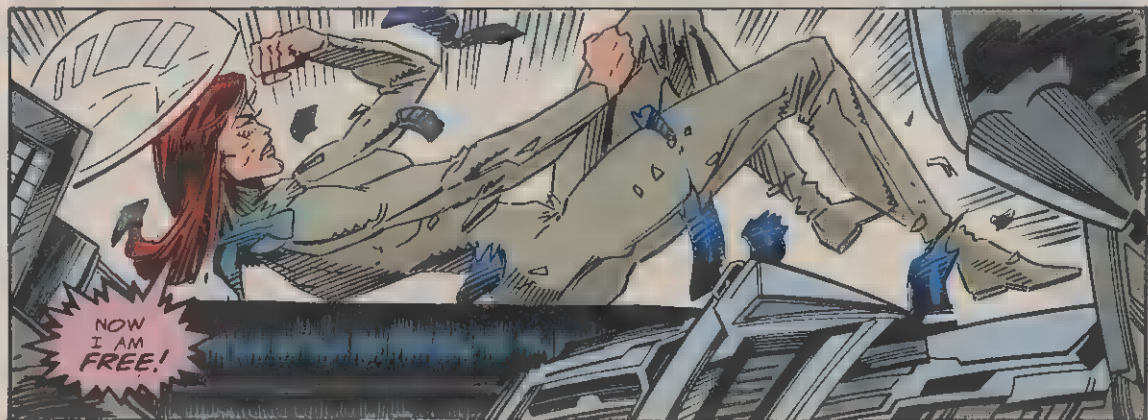
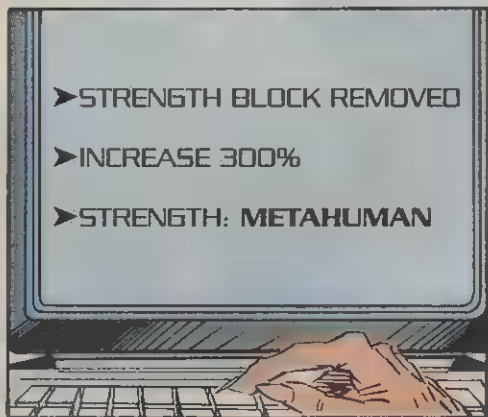
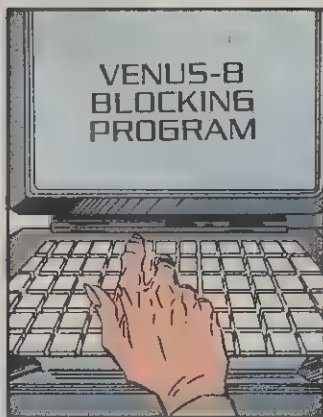
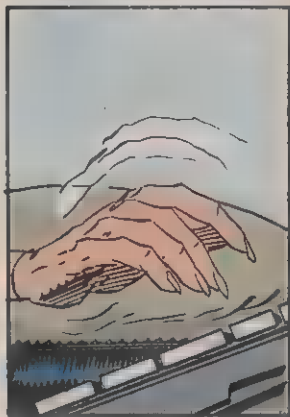
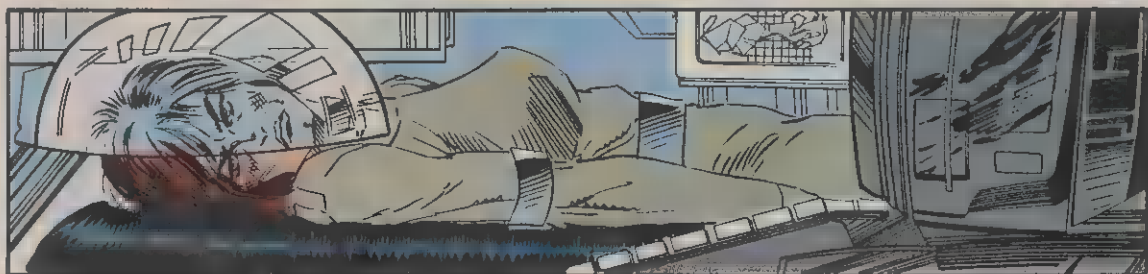
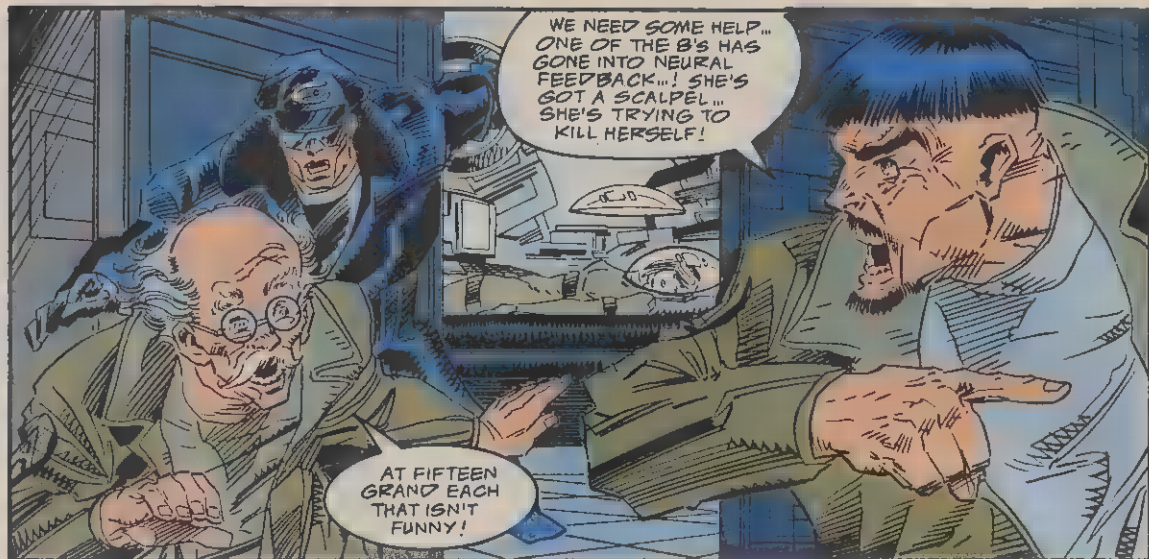
YES, THEY'RE CREATED PERFECT IN EVERY WAY, BUT SOON AFTER INCEPTION, WE PUT UNCONSCIOUS BLOCKERS IN THEIR MINDS...

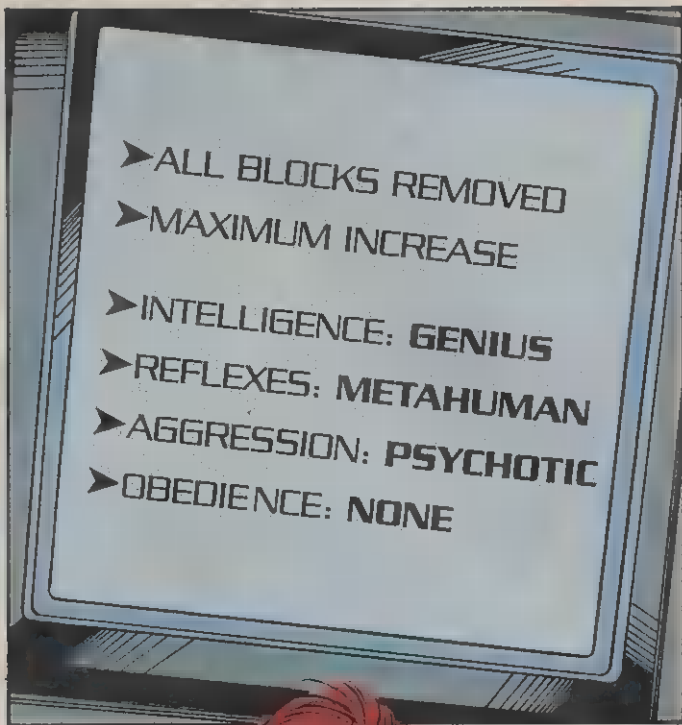
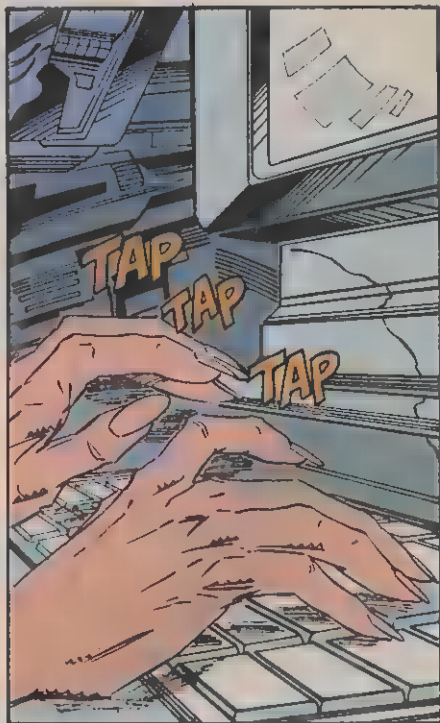
...TO DECREASE THE INTELLIGENCE... REACTION-TIME... STRENGTH...

...AND INCREASE OBEDIENCE AND THE NEED TO PLEASE. THE VENUS-8 IS ONE OF OUR BEST-SELLING MODELS.



WHAT THE SHOCK'S GOING ON NEXT DOOR?





YOU'VE BEEN
PROGRAMMED!
YOU MUST
OBEY ME!

IS
THAT
SO?

IT TOOK ME NEARLY
TWENTY MINUTES TO
ABSORB EVERY
PIECE OF RELEVANT
INFORMATION ON
NEW YORK...

IT SOUNDED LIKE A CESSPIT OF
MISERY AND INJUSTICE...

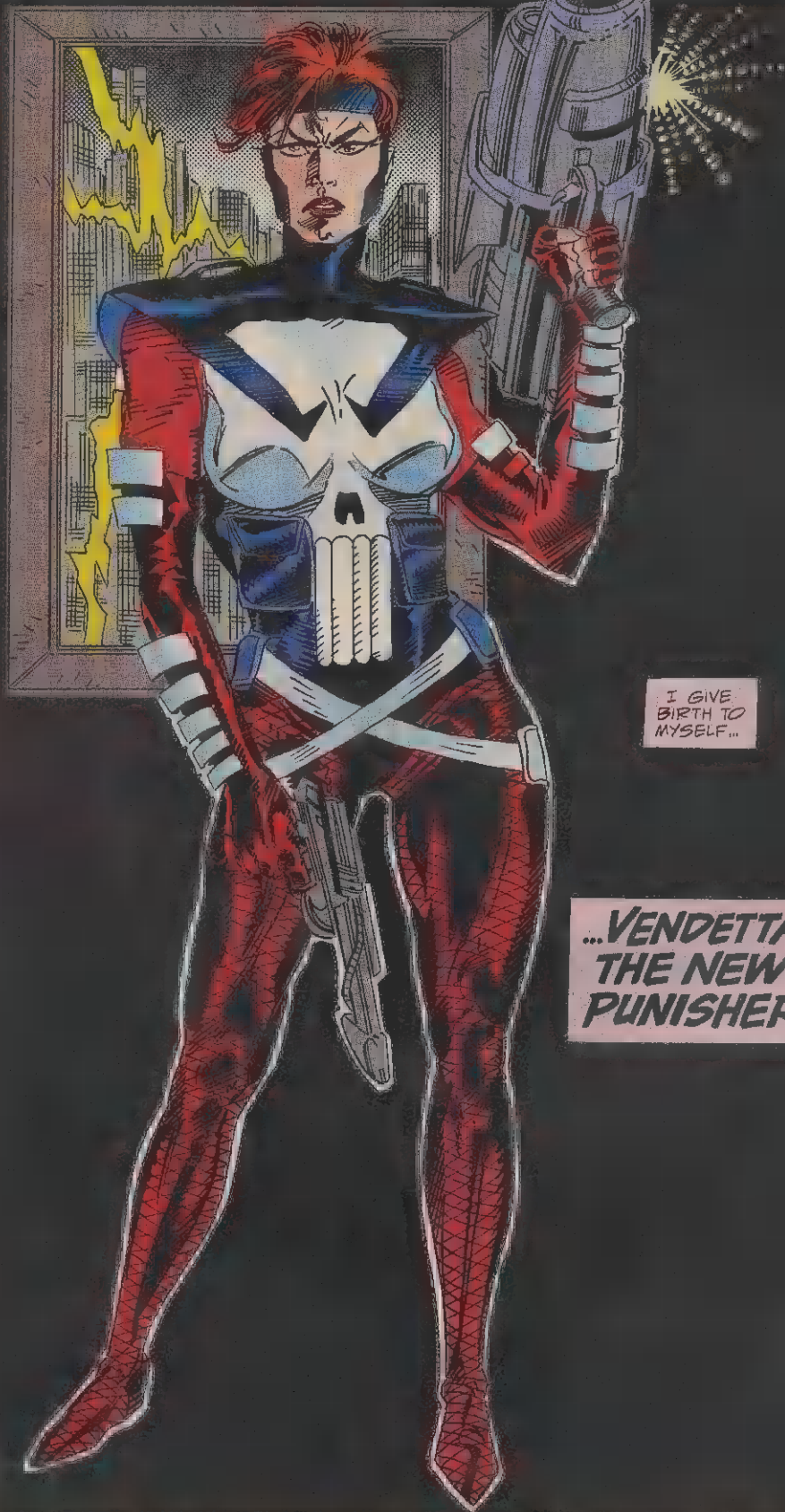
IT WOULD BE... IT'S RUN BY
ALCHEMAX--THE PEOPLE
WHO CREATED ME.

BUT, ACCORDING TO THE
FILES, THERE WAS ONLY
ONE PERSON... ONE HERO
WHO WAS TRYING TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE...

JUDGING BY THE STATE OF
THE CITY, HE'S WEAK AND
INEFFECTUAL.

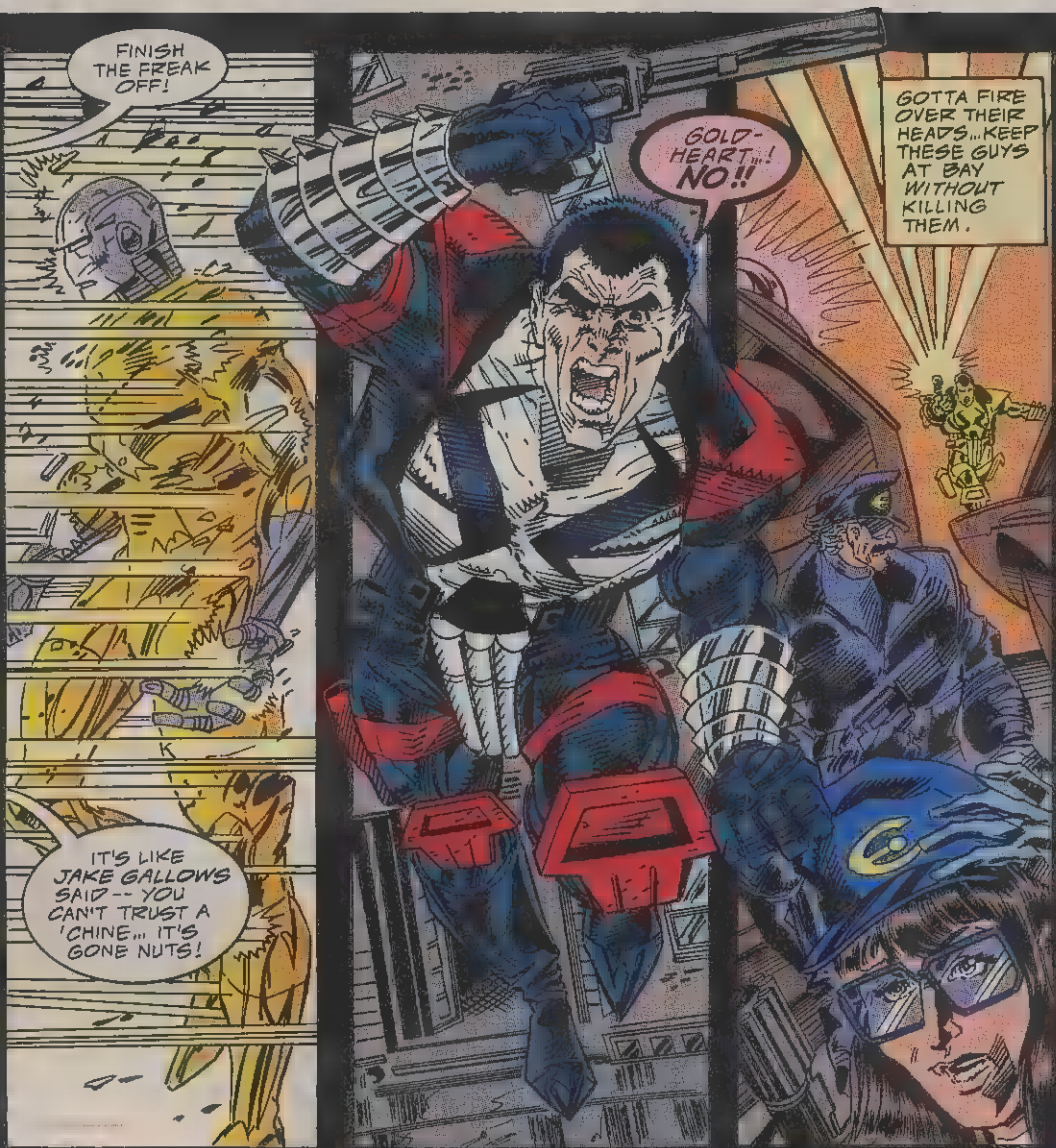
IT'S TIME HE WAS
REPLACED BY
A WOMAN!

CALLS HIM-
SELF... THE
PUNISHER.



I GIVE
BIRTH TO
MYSELF...

...VENDETTA,
THE NEW
PUNISHER!

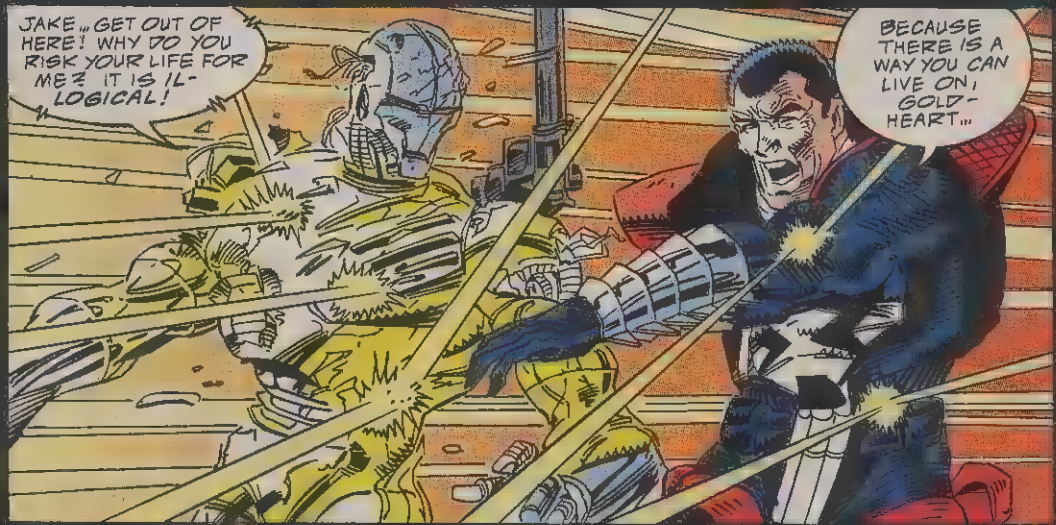


FINISH
THE FREAK
OFF!

GOLD-
HEART...!
NO!!

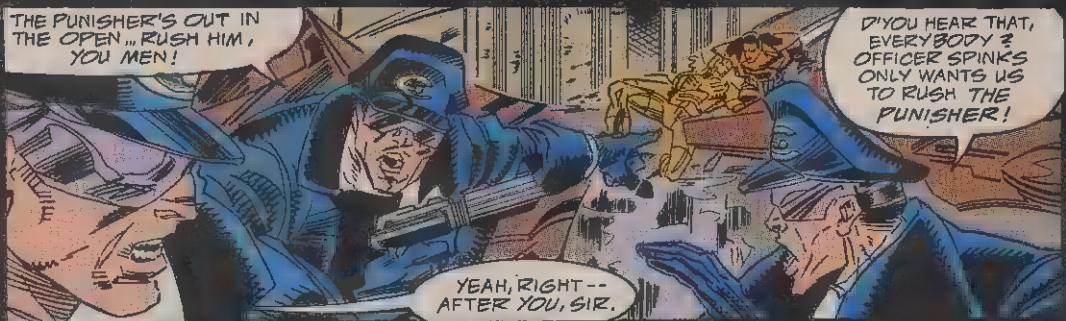
GOTTA FIRE
OVER THEIR
HEADS...KEEP
THESE GUYS
AT BAY
WITHOUT
KILLING
THEM.

IT'S LIKE
JAKE GALLONS
SAID-- YOU
CAN'T TRUST A
'CHINE... IT'S
GONE NUTS!



JAKE... GET OUT OF
HERE! WHY DO YOU
RISK YOUR LIFE FOR
ME? IT IS IL-
LOGICAL!

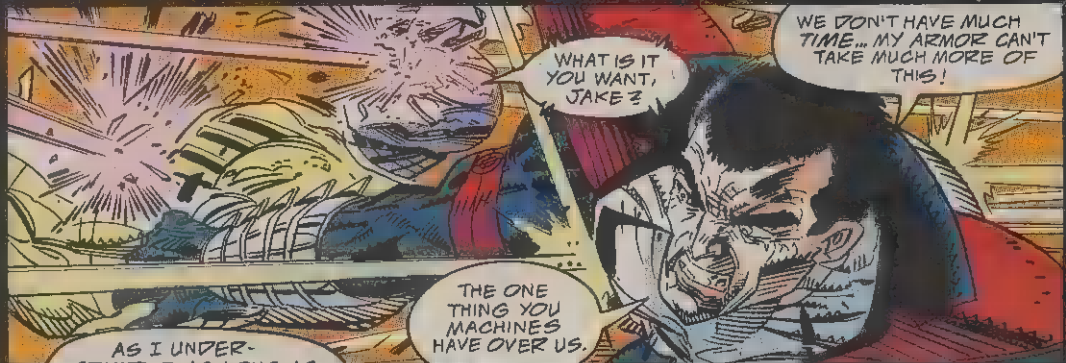
BECAUSE
THERE IS A
WAY YOU CAN
LIVE ON,
GOLD-
HEART...



THE PUNISHER'S OUT IN THE OPEN... RUSH HIM, YOU MEN!

D'YOU HEAR THAT, EVERYBODY? OFFICER SPINKS ONLY WANTS US TO RUSH THE PUNISHER!

YEAH, RIGHT -- AFTER YOU, SIR.

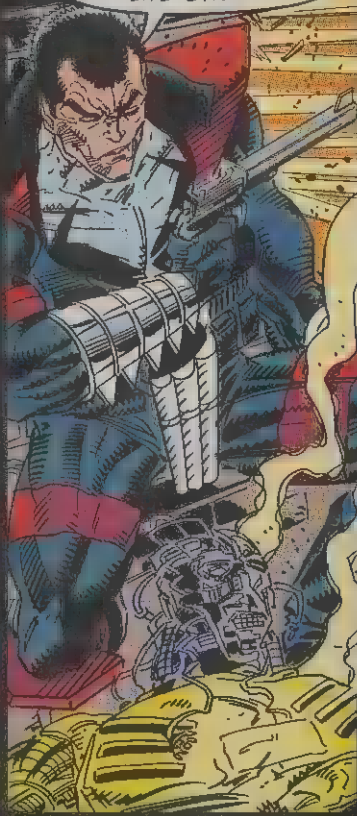


WHAT IS IT YOU WANT, JAKE?

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME... MY ARMOR CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS!

THE ONE THING YOU MACHINES HAVE OVER US.

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, AS LONG AS YOUR C.P.U. IS INTACT, THE ESSENCE OF WHO YOU ARE... YOUR MIND... YOUR PERSONALITY... YOUR SOUL... CAN LIVE ON.



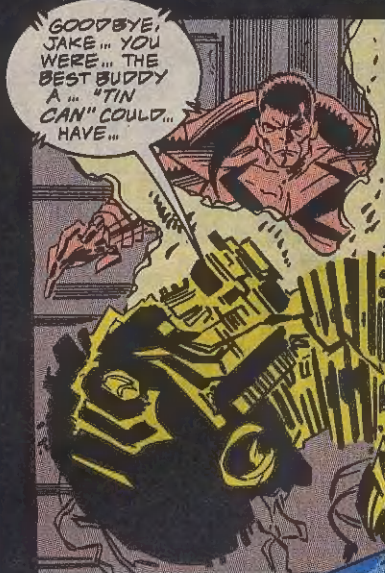
YES... IF I AM PLUGGED INTO ANY SEVENTH GENERATION HARDWARE... I CAN LIVE ON.

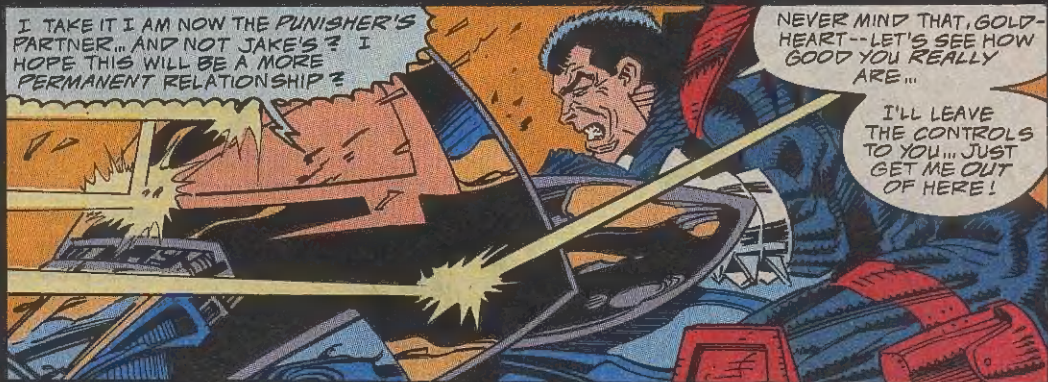
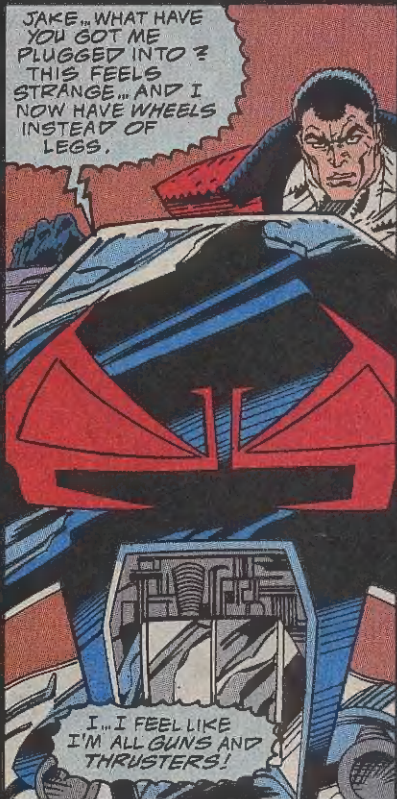
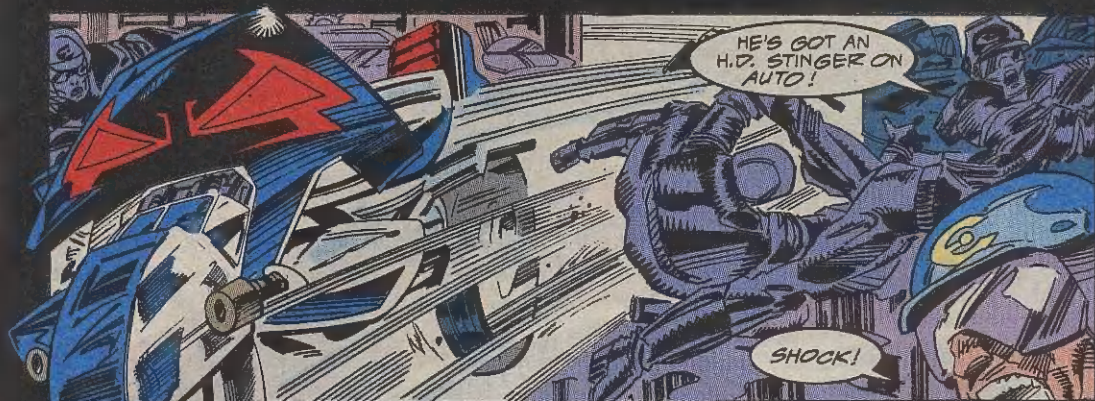
SO WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR C.P.U. ...? HURRY!



WHERE DO YOU THINK ...?

IN THE PLACE YOU CALL... THE HEART.





OF COURSE
--I AM THE
BEST!

YEAH, WELL, DON'T GET
ANY IDEAS ABOUT GOLD-
PLATED HANDLEBARS!

VERY WELL,
JAKE... BUT NOW
THAT I AM NO LONGER
A PUBLIC EYE EN-
FORCEMENT OFFICER,
WILL YOU TEACH ME
ABOUT BEING A
VIGILANTE
INSTEAD?

THE WORD
IS PUNISHER,
GOLDHEART... AND
RULE ONE IS... WE
ACTUALLY DO
SOMETHING TO THE
GUILTY... WE
DISPENSE PUNISH-
MENT!

SO LONG,
JAKE...
I'LL MISS
YA!
-TIM

NEXT...

**JAKE VS.
VENDETTA!**

TOM MORRIS

KEITH WILLIAMS

TARGET PRACTICE

Matthew Morra, Associate Editor • Joey Cavalleri, Group Editor

c/o Marvel Comics • 387 Park Avenue South • New York, New York 10016

All letters for publication must include your name and address, although we will gladly withhold that info upon request.

Out Of My Head

The Paper— Good for wrapping fish.

The Hudsucker Proxy— Not nearly as much fun as calling someone a "hudsucker."

Clifford— Disappointed when I found out this wasn't about a big, red dog.

Comic books— still your best entertainment value.

(The "writing for comics" essay will appear next issue. Honest.)

Dear Joey & Matt,
RE: #14.

Has Jake lost his marbles or is he just two cans short of a six pack? I have some questions:

1) I've noticed that whenever anyone swears they say "shock." What's that mean?

2) Is Will Simpson ever going to do art for PUNISHER 2099 again?

3) When is the current Punisher's death going to fit into this storyline?

4) Where the heck is Matt? Did he quit?

Until Jake turns in his guns for good, make mine Marvel 2099!

Ian Quartana
3316 W. Scott St.
Milwaukee, WI 53215

1) It has a meaning that we haven't gotten around to yet; Ian, but there's no specific 20th century analog.

2) Yes! Will's working on the sequel to "Blue Max" right now.

3) Wait and see.

4) In light of recent events, Matt'll be taking some time off for a while.

Dear Target Practice,

Since you have had Doom, Wire and now Spider-Man enter cyberspace in DOOM 2099 and SPIDER-MAN 2099, I'd like to see either the Punisher or his good buddy and high-tech expert, Matt Axel, or preferably both, do some net-gliding in the near future. It would make sense for his archetype to be a heavily armed Ninja-type. He would probably be buddy-buddy with Duke Stratosphere if he should make an appearance.

Also, if Jake should meet up with the cyber-entity Paloma, he might acquire a much needed lesson in humility from a potential and much needed ally (even if they do happen to reside in cyberspace). We know what Jake and Matt can do in the real world, now let's see what they can do to the corrupt mega-corporations in cyberspace.

Mark Salom
2372 E. 26th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11229

It's all eminently possible, Mark. Since you're obviously a Duke Stratosphere fan, you'll want to check out 2099 UNLIMITED #5 for a Duke solo story.

Dear Target Practice,

I love what you're doing with the Punisher 2099. But I think that you should create more recurring enemies for him. So far, all he has is the Fearmaster; the Cyber-Nostre and Jigsaw 2099.

Thomas Noble
107 Burtis St.
Lynbrook, NY 11563

Where've you been Thomas? Since issue #15 we've introduced Public Enemy, Goldheart, Vendetta, next month, Hotwire, and we're just getting warmed up! It's kinda hard to have recurring villains, though: Jake tends to finish them off!

Dear Target Practice,

This is the first time I've ever written to a comic book. I've been a Punisher fan for 8 years and have everything back to AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #129, but this series is the best! Jake Galloway is an excellent character!

The futuristic setting and grim world you created makes what Jake is doing even more heroic. Jake is a man that has been pushed to the edge and has pushed back with all his force and will.

Please keep up the high quality of this series. Your creative crew has the dedication and style to surpass all the other Marvel titles easily. My only question is will Jake only operate out of New York or will he be like the Punisher of old and travel abroad? I hope this will be the case so we can see other parts of the 2099 world from the Punisher's point of view. Until Jake decides to clean the streets with a push-broom instead of a .54 Magnum, make mine Marvel 2099!

Joseph Moore
(Address withheld by request)

There's no immediate plans for Jake to go on the road, Joe, he's got his hands full where he is.

Dear Joey & Matt,

Congratulations on the 2099 titles. With all the budget cuts my comic book collecting has suffered, the 2099 books are the only Marvel titles I still collect. I can't wait for HULK 2099.

I've got a few comments about the "new versions of old characters" debate. The most important thing to remember is that we must take a look at the society of 2099. Most of the "common" folk look toward the heroes and villains of the "heroic age" for their inspiration, whether

in normal daily life or, in the case of the heroes and villains now showing up, in their chosen good or evil lives. Therefore, even though their powers or situations may not come about in the same manner as the originals, it would still be safe to assume that these superhumans would also look to the past for inspiration when searching for a name. Of course, as the super-powered movement progresses, there would eventually come more originality, but as a beginning, the "reworked" hero/villain method certainly makes sense.

I hope I've given some good food for thought! Keep those 2099 titles coming!

J. Michael Schwobe
1471 13th St. #14
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

More like a full course meal for thought, Mike! We're more than glad to keep even more titles coming! Check the other magazines in Marvel 2099 this month for more news on what we're up to!

TILL LATER, TOM

The page facing this one tells the tale. Tom has said his sayonara to Jake Galloway for the time being.

Tom's wife, Mary, told us that drawing that final page took a lot out of ol' Tom. "He had to be alone," she told us. "He was very emotional about it." A genuine sentiment about a character you might not believe would inspire sentiment.

We owe Tom a lot, because a lot of what you see here is Tom's. One reason 2099 looks the way it does because Tom gave very generously of his time and enthusiasm to work extra hard on many early designs.

Tom's now working on a project for Marvel that is his childhood dream. And as a very wise culture hero once said, "You got a follow that dream wherever that dream may lead."

This box is labeled "Till Later" because, as far as we're concerned, Tom's on a leave of absence. He likes this book too much to be gone too long. He's also promised to do some other stuff in and around Marvel 2099, so keep watching!

NEXT ISSUE

New artist Simon Coleby steps up to the plate.